

Bloomfield Record.

S. M. HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1874.

ESSEX PUBLIC ROAD BOARD.

In the Newark *Daily Advertiser* of the 8th of January, a long editorial labora to convince the citizens of Newark of the value of the operations of this creature of the Legislature, and how desirable it is to have several "handsome radiating avenues to different parts of the county." If it never was before, it now becomes very apparent, in that article, in what part of the county this creature was conceived and born. And what is the argument? why, we of the city of Newark are securing splendid radiating avenues into the various parts of the county, at trifling cost to ourselves, and by which our trade and commerce will be enhanced. The editorial in question made a pretty fair show to the good people of Newark, but not quite so good a one as it might. It is true that Newark will reap a great benefit from these avenues—far more than the townships. It is also true that it will cost her very little, comparatively. It is equally true that the townships are unjustly burdened with an undue share of the cost and that the property to the extent of 500 feet on each side of (Bloomfield) the avenues are peculiarly burdened. What we have said applies generally to all the avenues—we will take the Bloomfield avenue, as an example by which to illustrate. The Road Board paid for the right of way and damages, including \$22,000 for the old turnpike, the sum of \$176,780.41, this amount has been assessed as special benefit to the property lying 500 feet on both sides of said avenue.

The total expenditure for construction, engineering, &c., not including damages for grading, which have recently been assessed, amounts, on Bloomfield avenue, to the sum of \$164,049.69. One half of this is a joint account to be paid by the county—the other half is assessed on the several townships interested. Now, accepting the said editorial per centage as correct—viz., that of county expenditure the city pays 73 and the townships 27 per cent, the joint account above the city will pay \$59,878.14 and the townships \$22,149.71. Some \$90,000 is all that Newark is expected to pay toward Bloomfield avenue. What are the townships expected to pay? First,

One half the construction acc't \$82,024.85

27 per cent of the same 22,146.71

Right of way 176,780.41

\$280,951.97

These figures are correct, taken directly from the Road Board's books and if they do not lie, Newark pays 17½ and the several townships 82½ per cent of the total cost.

It is no wonder that Newark, editorially and otherwise, should feel satisfied, and we of the townships very much dissatisfied. And why are we dissatisfied? Chiefly because we feel that we have sold out to our designing neighbors. But it is not altogether a matter of feeling. There is some common sense reasoning in our dissatisfaction. We hold it is not reasonable that any Legislature should enact a law by which A. B. should pay for a road and give it to the public. If A. B. cannot, in equity, be made to donate a road to the public, how can the owner of 1,000 feet? Nor is it reasonable that the commissioners to assess benefit should limit their operations to a strip of 500 feet on both sides of the avenue. We could name property fronting on the avenue which is actually injured, and would not bring so much money to-day because of the improvement and yet is heavily assessed.

Then others on the lateral streets, who are just out of the limits and not taxed one cent are often as much benefited if not more than some within the limits.

There was considerable wisdom in the saying of one of our clear headed citizens, "nothing but money and a good lawyer will bring them to their senses."

The Poor of Bloomfield.

Bloomfield has ever been such a thriving place that we hardly felt the necessity of forming any general society for the relief of the poor amongst us—if indeed, with churches so watchful over their own poor and citizens so benevolent, such a necessity had existed. This winter, however, it can hardly be questioned that neither church nor private charities fully meet the needs of the times.

The cold snap we have just passed through recalls to our minds the numerous cases of real suffering in our midst and has made some of our ladies feel that a committee for examining into and supplying the needs of the destitute should be at once organized. Probably the quickest and easiest way to do this will be to hold a union meeting of all, among the ladies of our five churches, who may feel interested in starting such an organization; and the ladies of the Westminster Church have offered the use of their church parlor on Monday, January 26th, at 2:30 P. M. for this purpose. If a committee representing each church and thoroughly willing to work could thus be formed, how many might have cause to bless its ministrations before the advent of Spring.

A court room sensation in Newark, Tuesday, was an intoxicated juror. Judge Depue stopped the trial and called the miserable man before him, when he gave him a talking to which he will not soon forget, and then sentenced him to five days imprisonment in the County Jail for contempt of court.

HOME CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. EDITOR:

A few weeks ago, a good-looking young man, about 25 years old, called on me to inquire if I knew of any one who had a thousand dollars to loan on bond and mortgage. He had a lot which had cost him \$600 a year ago, but which would readily sell now for \$1200; and he thought, in a year's time, it would be worth \$2500. He was willing to give a mortgage on this lot for the \$1000. He wanted the money to build a house, on another lot, which he had bought lately for \$600, but which was already mortgaged for \$500. He thought if he could get his new house built this winter, he could borrow enough more money on the house and lot in the spring to enable him to buy a very valuable lot he knew of, that he could get for a great deal less than it was worth, as the owner wanted money badly.

I did not know how to direct him where to find the man he was looking for; but he was so ingenious that my heart warmed toward him, and I felt willing to do anything I could, in reason, for him. An idea had struck me, while he was talking, that was brand new, and never would have occurred to any one else; but I had no particular use for it and I offered it to him for nothing, by way of advice. I suggested to him, that if (owing to the panic) he should not be able to borrow the money he wanted, he might sell his lot for \$1200—build his house with \$1000 of it—and apply the balance, as far as it would go, to paying off the \$500 mortgage on his other lot.

The suggestion was well-meant, but untimely and inconsiderate. I have been sorry for it ever since. He seemed to feel as much hurt as if I had proposed to him to sell one of his children. I am afraid he went away thinking.

D. O. C.

MR. EDITOR:

I promised you more on the school question, but cannot now enlarge on the subject, although the result of the vote referred to in my last shows the dire necessity. The vote as to number and length of sessions was a tie. To the credit of our Board of Trustees be it said the school is now running under the old regime, viz., morning and afternoon sessions of the usual length. It is but fair to state that the board were unanimous in their own opinion on this question and only submitted the matter to satisfy a clamor.

MONTCLAIR, JAN. 20. ESSEX.

A Protest.

About a year and a half ago, an attempt was made to establish a newspaper in this place, called the *Bloomfield Gazette*, on the financial basis that it must depend on the charity of the people for funds to keep it going. About \$500 was raised in this way, with a good subscription list and a generous advertising patronage besides. After nine or ten fortnightly issues, its publisher, elated with his success and evidently thinking there was no limit to the purse or patience of the people, put in a bid, editorially, for a gross income of \$10,000 a year for a weekly newspaper. At the same time it was proposed to change the original name of the paper so as to divide it up with an adjoining village. Was it to be wondered at that he began to lose the confidence of his old patrons? And was it really "strange" that another paper should be started in its place? The only advantage the new paper took was to profit by the fatal mistake of its predecessor. And yet it was only the old experience of *Aesop's* man and his goose. In simple language, the *Gazette* killed itself.

Let us take a case for illustration. The Bloomfield Saving Institution pays its depositors interest at the rate of seven per cent per annum, compounded half yearly. Now suppose Christopher Columbus, when he discovered America, had proceeded to Bloomfield, to the corner of Liberty and State streets, and deposited in the Bloomfield Savings Institution the sum of one dollar, (which is the lowest amount they will make a new book for, although they take smaller sums afterwards). This dollar would have increased so much by this time that the books of the Institution would now show to his credit about two hundred thousand millions of dollars. And to secure this money, the Bloomfield Savings Institution would hold mortgages covering the whole face of the habitable earth, besides large out-going mortgages in the rich dairy districts of the moon.

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